

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 204812

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S/S-O:LMATTESON

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P 280631Z AUG 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 204812

EXDIS

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO THE HAGUE, LONDON,
LISBON, EC BRUSSELS, NATO FROM PARIS AUG 26:

QUOTE S E C R E T PARIS 21854

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR SREF EAID PO FR N GW AO UK
SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE POLITICAL CRISIS AND ALLIED
DEMARCHES

REF: STATE 202520

1. I CARRIED OUT REFTEL INSTRUCTIONS WITH FOREIGN MIN-
ISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL DE COURCEL TUESDAY MORNING.
DE COURCEL SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT OUR DEMARCHE TO
POLITICAL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT ON URGENT BASIS AND WOULD
REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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2. DE COURCEL SAID GOF POLICY ON PORTUGAL SO FAR HAS BEEN TO AVOID AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE IMAGE OF INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL PORTUGUESE POLITICS. FRENCH ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN LIMITED TO SMALL NUMBER OF CHARTER FLIGHTS WHICH HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT 2,000 ANGOLAN REFUGEES FROM LUANDA TO LISBON. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, DE COURCEL EXPRESSED VIEW THAT WESTERN DEMARCHES RECOMMENDED REFTEL MIGHT HAVE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE EFFECT OF GALVANIZING NATIONALIST SENTIMENT IN PORTUGAL AGAINST THE MODERATES. HE SAID FRENCH EMBASSY IS REPORTING THAT WHILE SITUATION IS CONFUSED AND UNCERTAIN, THEY EXPECT GONCALVEZ TO BE REMOVED IMMEDIATELY. IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY, THEREFORE, THAT GOF WOULD WANT TO RISK REVERSAL OF THIS TREND BY WHAT DE COURCEL CALLED VISIBLE DEMARCHES BY WESTERN EMBASSIES IN LISBON. HE EMPHASIZED AGAIN, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY, AND THAT HE WOULD TRANSMIT OUR DEMARCHE URGENTLY. GAMMON UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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